Development of mining industry

668. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consistent with Indian economy, the mining industry is also growing at rapid speed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign technology is essential to generate 13-14 per cent mining growth required to meet the GDP of 9-10 per cent;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for value added projects in power, steel and aluminium plants; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) As per index of industrial production maintained by the Central Statistical Organization the mining sector recorded a growth of 5.4% in the year 2006-07 as against a growth of 1% in 2005-06. Private investment, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been allowed into the mineral sector with the enunciation of National Mineral Policy in 1993, and further investment would attract State-of-art technology to generate higher growth in exploration and mining. FDI up to 100% under the automatic route is allowed for power (except atomic energy), Steel and Alumina Plants.

Impact of privatization of BALCO on labour

669. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 634 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 2007 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Labour has submitted its inquiry report about BALCO;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) While furnishing reply to Unstarred Question No. 634 for answer on 5th March, 2007, it was *inter alia* stated that further action will be taken only after receipt of the Report from the Ministry of Labour. This part of the answer was treated as an Assurance. The Implementation Report in respect of the aforesaid assurance has been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs by the Ministry of Mines on 15.11.2007. However, the details are furnished below:—

Ministry of Labour and Employment in their comments dated 4.10.2007 has observed that the views expressed by the author of the research study titled 'Impact of Privatisation on Labour: A study of BALCO Disinvestment' are of the concerned researcher and do not necessarily represent the views of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNLI) or of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. As far as violation of labour laws is concerned, on examination of the report, no specific cases of violation of labour laws were pointed out in the study report.

Earlier also in 2002, an Inter-Ministerial Fact Finding Committee (FFC) consisting of two senior officers from Department of Disinvestment and Ministry of Labour and two members from Labour Organisations was constituted by the Ministry of Labour to assess whether lay off/retrenchment had been resorted to by the new management and also whether there were any deviation from Shareholders' Agreement (SHA) signed with the Government in respect of clauses dealing with labour issues.

The FFC which submitted its report in September, 2004, did not find any instance of lay off in BALCO post disinvestment. The FFC also could not find any instance of departure from the terms of the Transaction Agreement other than the payment of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) dues in five instalments. BALCO had informed that deferred payment in instalments was considered with the consent of individual VRS optees.

Fresh survey backwardness in Muslim dominated districts

†670. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to conduct a new survey to get information about social, economic and educational backwardness among Muslims in 90 Muslim-dominated districts in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reasons to conduct such a new survey; and

(d) the name of the agency to which the responsibility of this survey has been assigned and by when the report is likely to be received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has been entrusted the task of conducting a baseline survey, to identify the development deficits, in 90 minority concentration districts for implementation of a multi-sectoral development programme in these districts. The Council has sought six months time for conducting the baseline survey in a district.

Recruitment of minority community candidates

671. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new fifteen point programme for minority (muslim's) also included to consider minority community candidates, specially for recruitment in the State and Central Government services as well as while recruiting the police personnel in the States, so as to ensure welfare of the minority community;

(b) if so, whether such orders have been issued to the State Governments;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of minority community candidates recruited in Railways, State Police, Central Police Forces, nationalized banks and public sector enterprises as per the above guidelines?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.